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BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE

Project	Date	Author

SUBJECT—

TITLE

MEMORANDUM - REGIONAL FORESTER, MISSOULA, MONTANA

Re: Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation, Rapid
Lightning Creek, Kaniksu National Forest

by
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Forest Insect Laboratory
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
October 31, 1940

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Forest Insect Laboratory
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
October 31, 1940

MEMORANDUM - REGIONAL FORESTER, MISSOULA, MONTANA

Re: Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation, Rapid Lightning Creek, Kaniksu National Forest

This memorandum confirms our telephone conversation of the 29th.

Following your request for detailed information concerning the present status of the mountain pine beetle infestation within the publicly owned white pine stands of the Rapid Lightning Creek drainage, Kaniksu National Forest, I spent Monday, the 28th, with Mr. Terrell and three of his survey men in this area. The purpose of this examination was to secure more data concerning the status of the 1940 infestation and to examine a number of trees to determine the potential increase or decrease to be expected in 1941.

Publicly Owned White Pine Stands
Rapid Lightning Unit
Kaniksu National Forest

	1939	1940
Total acreage of white pine ---	1,400	1,400
Total acreage of sample plots ---	15.6	43.2
Number of infested trees per acre ---	1.22	.46
Total number of infested trees within unit ---	1,708	644
Percent of stand killed ---	*2.03	.76

*This figure is changed somewhat from that as given in the 1939 report of the Kaniksu survey, as it has been computed from this year's data, which are considered as being somewhat more accurate.

You will note that there was a rather sharp decrease from the 1939 infestation to the 1940, as in 1939 the infestation averaged 1.22 infested trees per acre, whereas at the present time there is but .46 of an infested tree per acre. However, in 1939 an examination of the infested trees showed a low brood potential of 1.09, indicating a decrease in the 1940 infestation. This decrease amounted to 62 percent with a drop from 1.22 to .46 of an infested tree per acre. Data from 15 trees, selected from different portions of the area, show that this year's infestation has a high potential, or 3.3 percent, from which we expect a sharp increase in the 1941 loss. As these predictions are based upon average seasons, it is realized that unusual climatical conditions may change them materially. The potentials of such unusual conditions can be recognized and their importance determined by subsequent examinations in the spring. The 1940-attacked trees are distributed for the most part along and above trail 147, in section 32 and in part of section 28. Infested trees occurred as singles and in groups varying from two or three to as many as 18 large mature trees.

As you are well aware, during the past few years there has been a severe loss within this area resulting from attacks of the mountain pine beetle. This loss will in the aggregate amount to 30 to 35 percent of the original stand. Obviously this stand was extremely susceptible to attacks of the mountain pine beetle. It is possible that most of the less resistant trees were taken during this outbreak, and that the residual stand may be more resistant for a few years.

However, in view of what has taken place, one can not foresee any great immunity for the timber in this area during any extended period of time.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES C. EVENDEN
Senior Entomologist

cc to Craighead, Carter, Supervisor Kaniksu N. F.